

Appln. No. 10/053,005
AMENDMENT
Docket No. GASQ-101

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel Claims 1-12 without prejudice or disclaimer and add new Claims 13-29 as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (NEW) A sole insert for a boot of a snowshoe, comprising:

as a sole insert that runs transversely to the sole of a boot and has two ends, each end positioned on a lateral edge of the sole of the boot so as to work with holding means provided on the snowshoe,

wherein the length of the sole insert is independent of the size of the boot and is designed to be used on at least two different boot sizes, so that the length of the sole insert is the same for at least two boots of different sizes.

14. (NEW) A sole insert according to Claim 13, wherein each end of the sole insert comprises hollow compartments.

15. (NEW) A boot comprising a sole having a sole insert according to Claim 13 or Claim 14.

16. (NEW) A boot according to Claim 15, wherein the sole insert is positioned along a transverse axis that is orthogonal to a longitudinal axis of the boot.

17. (NEW) A boot according to Claim 15, wherein a longitudinal position of the sole insert is the same for a given boot model, regardless of the size of the boot.

18. (NEW) A boot according to Claim 17, wherein the sole has protruding contours or bosses, or hollow contours, on its lateral edges in which the ends of the sole insert are located.

19. (NEW) A boot according to Claim 15, wherein a longitudinal position of the sole insert varies as a function of size for a given boot model, whereby the sole insert is positioned in a front part of the boot at a point where the width of the sole is equal to the length of the sole insert.

20. (NEW) A boot according to Claim 15, wherein the width of the sole varies in its height and wherein a vertical position of the sole insert differs depending on the size of the boot for a given boot model.

21. (NEW) A boot according to Claim 15, wherein the sole insert is positioned in the sole in such a way that a ratio between: (1) a distance measured between the transverse axis of the sole insert and the front end of the boot, and (2) the length of the boot, is the same regardless of the size of the boot.

22. (NEW) A boot according to Claim 21, wherein the ratio is between 0.10 and 0.45.

23. (NEW) A process for manufacturing a boot according to Claim 15, comprising during a main stage, arranging an insert inside the sole of a boot, said insert having a length that is independent of the size of the boot and is constant for a given boot model.

24. (NEW) A set of at least two boots of different sizes, each boot according to Claim 15, wherein the sole insert of one boot has the same length as the sole insert of another boot.

25. (NEW) A sole insert according to Claim 13, wherein the sole insert comprises a filled thermoplastic or composite material.

26. (NEW) A sole insert according to Claim 13, wherein the sole insert is flat.

27. (NEW) A sole insert according to Claim 13, wherein the sole insert is curved.

28. (NEW) A sole insert for a boot of a snowshoe, comprising:
a sole insert that is positioned in a sole of a boot and has two ends, each end positioned on a lateral edge of the sole and having a hollow holding element configured to work with a mating element provided on the snowshoe,
wherein the length of the sole insert is independent of the size of the boot and is the same for at least two boots of different sizes.

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29. (NEW) A process for manufacturing a plurality of boots of different sizes, comprising arranging an insert inside the sole of each boot, said insert having a length that is independent of boot size and is the same for the plurality of boots of different sizes.
